

## EMBEDDED CURVES AND FOLIATIONS

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*Abstract*


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We prove the existence of regular foliations with a prescribed tangency divisor in neighborhoods of negatively embedded holomorphic curves; this is related to a linearization theorem due to Grauert. We give also examples of neighborhoods which can not be linearized.

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We consider in this paper the problem of finding regular holomorphic foliations in neighborhoods of smooth, compact, holomorphic curves embedded in complex surfaces. More precisely, we fix a positive divisor of a curve and ask whether there exists a holomorphic foliation whose divisor of tangencies with the curve is exactly that divisor. Let us state our main result:

**Theorem.** *Let  $C \hookrightarrow S$  be an embedding of the curve  $C$  into the surface  $S$  such that  $C \cdot C < 0$ .*

- *If  $C \cdot C < 4 - 4g$ , there exists a regular foliation defined in a neighborhood of  $C$  and transverse to  $C$ .*
- *Let a divisor  $D = \sum_{k=1}^l n_k p_k$  be given in  $C$ , with  $n_k \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}$ . If*

$$C \cdot C < 4 - 4g + \sum_{k=1}^l (n_k - 1),$$

*there exists a regular foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  defined in a neighborhood of  $C$  which is transversal to  $C$  except at the points  $p_1, \dots, p_l \in C$ , where  $\text{tang}_{p_k}(\mathcal{F}, C) = n_k$  for every  $k = 1, \dots, l$ .*

In the statement  $C \cdot C$  stands for the self-intersection number of  $C$  in  $S$  or, equivalently, the Chern class of the normal bundle of  $C$  in  $S$ ; the number  $g$  is the genus of  $C$ . Each number  $\text{tang}_{p_k}(\mathcal{F}, C)$  is the order of tangency at  $p_k \in C$  between  $C$  and the leaf of  $\mathcal{F}$  that passes through the point  $p_k$ .

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Our method to prove this theorem consists in i) find a holomorphic line field defined *along* the curve  $C$  with the prescribed set of tangencies and the prescribed order of tangencies; for this purpose we have no need to assume that the curve is negatively embedded; ii) extend the line field to a neighborhood of the curve; here we must work under the hypothesis  $C \cdot C < 0$  in order to assure the annihilation of some cohomology groups.

We should mention that our primary motivation stems from a Linearization Theorem due to Grauert [3]: a curve possesses a neighborhood diffeomorphic to a neighborhood of the zero section of its normal bundle if the embedding is sufficiently negative ( $C \cdot C < \min\{0, 4-4g\}$ ). A proof can be done in two steps. We start by guaranteeing the existence of a foliation transverse to the curve; this is the first case of our theorem. Once this is accomplished the rest of the proof goes as in [2] by finding another holomorphic foliation in a neighborhood  $V$  of  $C$  which has  $C$  as a leaf; this foliation and the transverse one are used as a kind of coordinate system for  $V$  when the desired diffeomorphism is constructed.

In this paper we discuss also how to produce examples of embeddings such that there are no foliations with a given divisor of tangencies when the negativity condition is violated. In particular, examples where linearization is not possible are presented. All these examples depend on properties of line fields defined along the curve.

## 1. Line fields and embeddings

Let us consider an embedding  $C \hookrightarrow S$  of the compact, smooth, holomorphic curve  $C$  into the surface  $S$ . In this section we study existence of line fields defined along  $C$ ; **we do not assume**  $C \cdot C < 0$ . Existence of a line field with a given divisor of tangencies is always granted when the degree of the divisor is sufficiently bigger than  $C \cdot C$ . On the other hand, uniqueness (but perhaps not the existence) follows when this degree is not too big, and we will see later how this leads to the construction of interesting examples.

A holomorphic subbundle  $Y \hookrightarrow TS|_C$  is a *holomorphic line field along*  $C$ . Equivalently we may say that a line field is a section of the  $\mathbb{P}^1$ -bundle  $\mathbb{P}(TS|_C)$  over  $C$ .  $Y$  has a *tangency* with  $C$  at the point  $p \in C$  when the morphism of line bundles  $Y \rightarrow NC = \frac{TS|_C}{TC}$  has a zero at  $p$ ; the order of the zero is the *order of tangency* between  $Y$  and  $C$ . We write the set of tangencies as an effective divisor  $D = \sum_{k=1}^l n_k D_k$  of  $C$ ; the point  $p_k$  is a point of tangency of order  $n_k$ .

In order to motivate the next proposition, let us remark that when  $Y$  is a line field along  $C$  whose divisor of tangencies with  $C$  is  $D$  then  $Y \simeq \mathcal{O}(-D) \otimes NC$  as line bundles. In fact, the morphism  $Y \rightarrow NC$  seen as a section of  $H^0(C, Y^* \otimes NC)$  has  $D$  as its divisor of zeroes; therefore  $Y^* \otimes NC \simeq \mathcal{O}(D)$ . This allows us to confound a line field along  $C$  having  $D$  as divisor of tangencies with an injective morphism  $\mathcal{O}(-D) \otimes NC \rightarrow TS|_C$ . We will from now use  $c(NC)$  to denote the Chern class of the normal bundle  $NC$  of  $C$  in  $S$ ; it is well known that  $C \cdot C = c(NC)$ .

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $D$  be an effective divisor of  $C$ , and assume*

$$C \cdot C < 4 - 4g + \sum_{k=1}^l (n_k - 1).$$

*There exists an injective bundle morphism  $Y: \mathcal{O}(-D) \otimes NC \rightarrow TS|_C$  which has  $D$  as divisor of tangencies with  $C$ .*

*Proof:* Let us use  $L := \mathcal{O}(-D) \otimes NC$  for simplicity. Firstly we construct  $Y$  locally, that is, in the restriction of the line bundle  $L$  to a small open set  $U \subset C$  where it is isomorphic to  $U \times \mathbb{C}$ . More precisely, we have i) an open subset  $U'$  of  $S$  with coordinates  $(z_1, z_2) \in \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}$  such that  $U = U' \cap C$  is  $\{z_2 = 0\}$ ; ii) a holomorphic function  $f$  of  $U$  such that  $D|_U = \{f = 0\}$  and iii) trivialization coordinates  $(z_1, t)$  for  $L|_U$ ; then we may define

$$Y(z_1)(t) = (z_1, t, f(z_1)t).$$

This can be done in each set of an open covering  $\{U_i\}_{i \in I}$  of  $C$ , so we get morphisms  $Y_i: L|_{U_i} \rightarrow TS|_{U_i}$  with the desired property; we assume that the support of each  $D|_{U_i}$  consists of a point at most and that there are no points of tangency in the intersections  $U_i \cap U_j$  when  $i \neq j$ . Let  $\tilde{Y}_i$  denote the composition  $L|_{U_i} \rightarrow TS|_{U_i} \rightarrow NC|_{U_i}$ . As  $\tilde{Y}_i = a_{ij} \tilde{Y}_j$ , where  $\{a_{ij}\} \in H^1(C, \mathcal{O}^*(C))$  defines a line bundle  $J$ ,  $\{\tilde{Y}_i\}$  is a section of  $J \otimes \text{Hom}(L, NC) \simeq J \otimes L^* \otimes NC$  having  $D$  as divisor of zeroes, so that  $J \otimes L^* \otimes NC \simeq \mathcal{O}(D)$ . Consequently  $J$  is the trivial line bundle and we may suppose  $a_{ij} = 1$ , or  $\tilde{Y}_i = \tilde{Y}_j$ .

Now we have that

$$\{Y_{ij}\} := \{Y_i - Y_j\} \in H^1(C, \text{Hom}(L, TC)) \simeq H^1(C, L^* \otimes TC).$$

Let  $\tilde{D} = \sum_{k=1}^l p_k$  and  $s = \{s_i\} \in H^0(C, \mathcal{O}(\tilde{D}))$  whose divisor of zeroes is  $\tilde{D}$ . Therefore

$$(Y_i - Y_j) \otimes s^{-1} \in H^1(C, \mathcal{O}(-\tilde{D}) \otimes L^* \otimes TC)$$

and by Serre's duality

$$H^1(C, \mathcal{O}(-\tilde{D}) \otimes L^* \otimes TC) \simeq H^0(C, KC^2 \otimes \mathcal{O}(\tilde{D}) \otimes \mathcal{O}(-D) \otimes NC)$$

( $KC$  stands for the canonical bundle of  $C$ ). By hypothesis the Chern class of the line bundle  $KC^2 \otimes \mathcal{O}(\tilde{D}) \otimes \mathcal{O}(-D) \otimes NC$  is negative; we conclude that  $(Y_i - Y_j) \otimes s^{-1} = X_i - X_j$  for  $X_i \in H^0(U_i, \mathcal{O}(-\tilde{D}) \otimes L^* \otimes TC)$ , and therefore  $Y_i - Y_j = (X_i - X_j) \otimes s = s_i X_i - s_j X_j$ . We define  $Y := Y_i - s_i X_i$  in each  $U_i$ . Clearly  $Y$  is injective outside the support of  $\tilde{D}$ ; at each  $p_i$ , it is equal to  $Y_i$ , so it is also injective. As for the order of tangency at a point  $p_i$ , it coincides with the order of tangency of  $Y_i$ , which is  $n_i$  by construction.  $\square$

Consequently, there exists always a holomorphic line field along any curve if we admit a number of tangencies sufficiently big. We see also that there exists always a holomorphic line field with any number of tangencies if  $C \cdot C < 4 - 4g$ .

**Proposition 2.** *Assume that  $C \cdot C < 4 - 4g$ . There exists an injective bundle morphism  $Y: NC \rightarrow TS|_C$  which has no tangencies with  $C$ .*

*Proof:* We just have to repeat the arguments applied above without the presence of tangencies. We see that the condition in the statement implies that  $Y_i - Y_j = X_i - X_j$  for  $X_i \in H^0(U_i, NC^* \otimes TC)$ .  $\square$

In the next section we will analyse how to extend this holomorphic line field to a neighborhood of the curve. For the moment, let us state a general result concerning uniqueness.

**Proposition 3.** *Let  $D$  be an effective divisor of  $C$  and assume*

$$c(NC) > 2 - 2g + \sum n_i.$$

*There exists at most one line field along  $C$  having  $D$  as divisor of tangencies.*

*Proof:* Let us consider two such line fields  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  as bundle morphisms from  $\mathcal{O}(-D) \otimes NC$  into  $TS|_C$ . The induced morphisms  $\tilde{Y}_i: \mathcal{O}(-D) \otimes NC \rightarrow NC$  seen as sections of  $\mathcal{O}(D) \otimes NC^* \otimes NC = \mathcal{O}(D)$  have the same divisor  $D$  of zeroes, so that  $\tilde{Y}_1 = a\tilde{Y}_2$  for some  $a \in \mathbb{C}^*$ . It follows that  $Y_1 - aY_2$  is a bundle morphism from  $\mathcal{O}(-D) \otimes NC$  to  $TC$ ; the hypothesis tells us that  $\mathcal{O}(D) \otimes NC^* \otimes TC$  is a negative line bundle and so  $Y_1 - aY_2 = 0$ .  $\square$

## 2. Neighborhoods of negatively embedded curves

Before proving the theorem stated in the Introduction, we collect some properties due to Grauert that are verified in the case of a negatively embedded curve  $C \hookrightarrow S$  ([1], [3]).

- $C$  has a fundamental system of strictly pseudoconvex neighborhoods in  $S$ .
- If  $\mathcal{G}$  is a coherent sheaf defined in one of these neighborhoods, say  $V$ , and  $\mathcal{I}_C$  is the ideal sheaf of  $C$  in  $V$  then

$$\exists k > 0 \text{ such that } H^i(V, \mathcal{I}_C^k \cdot \mathcal{G}) = 0, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

**Lemma 1.** *We have  $H^2(V, \mathcal{I}_C \cdot \mathcal{G}) = 0$ . Moreover if*

$$H^0(C, KC \otimes NC^\nu \otimes \mathcal{G}^*|_C) = 0$$

*for all  $\nu \geq 1$  then  $H^1(V, \mathcal{I}_C \cdot \mathcal{G}) = 0$ .*

*Proof:* From  $H^i(V, \mathcal{I}_C^\nu / \mathcal{I}_C^{\nu+1} \cdot \mathcal{G}) \simeq H^i(C, (NC^*)^\nu \otimes \mathcal{G}|_C)$  we get immediately  $H^2(V, \mathcal{I}_C^\nu / \mathcal{I}_C^{\nu+1} \cdot \mathcal{G}) = 0$ . As

$$H^1(C, (NC^*)^\nu \otimes \mathcal{G}|_C) \simeq H^0(C, KC \otimes NC^\nu \otimes \mathcal{G}^*|_C)$$

(by Serre's duality) we get  $H^1(V, \mathcal{I}_C^\nu / \mathcal{I}_C^{\nu+1} \cdot \mathcal{G}) = 0$  as well.

Let us consider the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_C^{\nu+1} \cdot \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_C^\nu \cdot \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_C^\nu / \mathcal{I}_C^{\nu+1} \cdot \mathcal{G} \rightarrow 0$$

which leads to

$$\cdots \rightarrow H^i(V, \mathcal{I}_C^{\nu+1} \cdot \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow H^i(V, \mathcal{I}_C^\nu \cdot \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow H^i(V, \mathcal{I}_C^\nu / \mathcal{I}_C^{\nu+1} \cdot \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow \cdots$$

Therefore the maps  $H^i(V, \mathcal{I}_C^{\nu+1} \cdot \mathcal{G}) \rightarrow H^i(V, \mathcal{I}_C^\nu \cdot \mathcal{G})$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , are always surjective. Consequently  $H^i(V, \mathcal{I}_C^k \cdot \mathcal{G}) = 0$  for some  $k > 0$  implies  $H^i(V, \mathcal{I}_C \cdot \mathcal{G}) = 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .  $\square$

The next lemma allows us to extend any line bundle over  $C$  to a line bundle over  $V$ . Of course there are certain line bundles which are extendible regardless of the negativity of the embedding  $C \hookrightarrow V$ . For example,  $KC = KV|_C \otimes NC = KV|_C \otimes [C]|_C$ , so that  $KC$  always has an extension to  $V$ . Below in our theorem we find this situation when no tangencies are present.

**Lemma 2.** *The restriction  $H^1(V, \mathcal{O}_V^*) \rightarrow H^1(C, \mathcal{O}_C^*)$  is surjective.*

*Proof:* Let  $J$  be the subsheaf of  $\mathcal{O}_V^*$  defined as

- $J_q = (\mathcal{O}_V^*)_q$  if  $q \notin C$ .
- $J_q = \{\phi \in (\mathcal{O}_V^*)_q; \phi|_C \simeq 1\}$  if  $q \in C$ .

We have then the short exact sequence

$$1 \rightarrow J \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_V^* \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_V^*/J \rightarrow 1;$$

we remark that  $\mathcal{O}_V^*/J$  can be taken as  $\mathcal{O}_C^*$ .

In order to have the surjectivity stated above, we need  $H^2(V, J) = 0$ . Since the exponential map gives an isomorphism between  $\mathcal{I}_C$  and  $J$ , it is enough to have  $H^2(V, \mathcal{I}_C) = 0$ .  $\square$

### 3. Constructing foliations

We are able now to prove the theorem stated in the Introduction.

Let  $Y: C \rightarrow TS|_C$  be the line field constructed in Corollary 1. Let  $\{U_i\}$  be a covering of  $C$  and  $\tilde{U}_i$  be an open set such that  $\tilde{U}_i \cap C = U_i$ . In each  $\tilde{U}_i$  we choose a 1-form  $\omega_i$  satisfying  $\ker(\omega_i(p)) = Y(p)$  when  $p \in U_i$ . We may take coordinates  $(x_i, y_i) \in \tilde{U}_i$  as to have  $U_i = \{y_i = 0\}$  and  $\omega_i = dy_i - x_i^{n_i} dx_i$  (remember that the possibility  $n_i = 0$  is allowed). We remark that  $\omega_i|_{U_i \cap U_j} = f_{ij} \omega_j|_{U_i \cap U_j}$  whenever  $U_i \cap U_j \neq \emptyset$ ,  $f_{ij} \in Z^1(\{U_i\}, \mathcal{O}_C^*)$ . We denote by  $L = \{F_{ij}\}$  the line bundle over  $V$  whose restriction to  $C$  is defined by the transition functions  $\{f_{ij}\}$  (Lemma 2); we have

$$L|_C = \mathcal{O}(D) \otimes KC^*,$$

where  $D = \sum_{i=1}^l n_i p_i$ . The boundary  $\delta\{\omega_i\}$  computed in  $Z^1(S, \Omega_S^1 \otimes L)$  belongs effectively to  $Z^1(S, \mathcal{I}_C \cdot \Omega_S^1 \otimes L)$ , where  $\Omega_S^1$  is the sheaf of germs of holomorphic 1-forms of  $S$ .

We claim that  $H^1(S, \mathcal{I}_C \cdot \Omega_S^1 \otimes L) = 0$ . As discussed before, we need that  $\forall \nu \geq 1$

$$H^0(C, KC \otimes NC^\nu \otimes (\Omega_S^1 \otimes L)^*|_C) = 0$$

which depends on

$$H^0(C, KC^2 \otimes NC^\nu \otimes \mathcal{O}(-D) \otimes TC) = 0 \quad \forall \nu \geq 1$$

and

$$H^0(C, KC^2 \otimes NC^\nu \otimes \mathcal{O}(-D) \otimes NC) = 0 \quad \forall \nu \geq 1;$$

both equalities are true since the Chern classes of the line bundles  $KC^2 \otimes NC^\nu \otimes \mathcal{O}(-D) \otimes TC$  and  $KC^2 \otimes NC^\nu \otimes \mathcal{O}(-D) \otimes NC$  are negative due to the hypothesis.

It follows that there exists a 0-cocycle  $\{\eta_i\} \in H^0(\tilde{U}_i, \mathcal{I}_C \cdot \Omega_S^1 \otimes L) = 0$  such that

$$\omega_i - F_{ij} \omega_j = \eta_i - F_{ij} \eta_j$$

and the foliation we look for is defined by the 1-form

$$\{\omega_i - f_{ij} \eta_i\} \in H^0(V, \Omega_S^1 \otimes L). \quad \square$$

**Corollary 1.** *Let  $C \hookrightarrow S$  be an embedding of the curve  $C$  into the surface  $S$  such that  $C \cdot C < 0$ . Then there exists a regular holomorphic foliation defined in a neighborhood of  $C$ .*

#### 4. Examples

**Example 1.** *A plane smooth projective curve  $C$  different from the projective line does not have a transverse holomorphic line field (this is a particular case of a theorem of van de Ven [4]). In fact, suppose  $Y$  is a transverse holomorphic line field defined along  $C$ . We consider a holomorphic automorphism  $A$  of the plane close to the identity which fixes some point  $p \in C$  and such that  $(A_*Y)(p) \neq Y(p)$ ; the line field  $Y_A = A_*Y$  is of course transverse to  $A(C)$ . Given  $q \in A(C)$ , we denote as  $l_q$  the projective line tangent to  $Y_A(q)$  at  $q$ . We may therefore induce along  $C$  a new holomorphic line field  $Z \neq Y$  in the following way: given  $q \in A(C)$  take  $q' = l_q \cap C$  (the intersection is taken in a small neighborhood of  $C$ ); then  $Z(q')$  is the tangent line to  $l_q$  at the point  $q'$ , see Figure 1. Since  $Z(p) = Y_A(p) \neq Y(p)$  and  $Z$  is transverse to  $C$ , we get a contradiction with the Proposition 3 (notice that  $c(NC) = d^2$  is greater than  $3d - d^2 = 2 - 2g$  when  $d = \text{degree}(C) > 1$ ).*

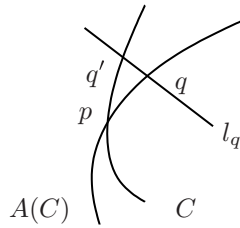


FIGURE 1

A different, “foliated” argument goes as follows: suppose that there exists a holomorphic line field transverse to  $C$ ; this is a line bundle  $L$  over  $C$ , as we have seen in Section 1. For each  $p \in C$  the line  $l(p)$  of  $L$  is associated to a projective line  $l_p$  of the projective plane (this projective line passes through  $p$  with direction given by  $l(p)$ ). We take some Riemannian metric in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ ; since there are neighborhoods of  $C$  in  $L$  and of  $C$  in  $\mathbb{P}^2$  which are  $C^\infty$  diffeomorphic (as line bundles), for a

small  $\eta$  the discs centered at the points of  $C$  of radius  $\eta$  and contained in the projective lines  $\{l_p\}_{p \in C}$  are disjoint, so they form a holomorphic fibration. We pick up a non-constant meromorphic function in  $C$  and extend it to a neighborhood of  $C$  as a constant along each fiber. This is a meromorphic function that can be extended to all of  $\mathbb{P}^2$  since the complement of  $C$  is a Stein surface. We observe that the extension is constant along each projective line  $l_p$ . The only possibility is that these projective lines form a pencil issued from some point of the plane.

Proposition 3 implies that for a curve with sufficiently positive self-intersection we have at most one transverse holomorphic line field. The above example shows that such a line field may not exist at all. Note that the construction of transverse line fields presented in Proposition 2 is done under the hypothesis that the curve has sufficiently negative self-intersection.

**Example 2.** Proposition 3 is useful to get examples of non-existence of certain regular foliations when the self-intersection of  $C$  is not sufficiently negative. In order to see this, let us consider a pair  $C \hookrightarrow S$  obtained by the following procedure:

- (1) We blow up the origin 0 of the polydisc  $\Delta \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ , introducing an exceptional divisor; we choose the point in this divisor which belongs to the strict transform of  $\{y = 0\}$  and blow up again. We keep doing this in order to get a chain of projective lines  $E_1, \dots, E_{m-1}$  of self-intersection  $-2$  and a last projective line  $E_m$  of self-intersection  $-1$ ; there is a holomorphic projection  $\pi$  from the resulting surface  $\tilde{\Delta}$  to  $\Delta$ , which collapses  $E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_m$  to 0, and which is an isomorphism from the complement of this divisor to  $\Delta \setminus \{(0, 0)\}$ . Denote by  $q \in E_m$  the point which belongs to the strict transform of  $\{y = 0\}$  and take the  $u$ -coordinate along  $E_m$  in order to have  $\pi(x, u) = (x, ux^m)$ . We take also a polydisc  $V = \{x, u\}; |x| < 1, |u| < \epsilon\}$ , for a small  $\epsilon$ , around  $(x, u) = (0, 0) = q \in E_m$ .
- (2) Let us consider a line bundle over a compact, holomorphic, smooth curve  $\tilde{C}$  whose self-intersection satisfies  $\tilde{C} \cdot \tilde{C} > 2 - 2g$ ; we select some point in  $\tilde{C}$  and introduce coordinates  $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{u})$  in a neighborhood  $W$  of this point as to have  $\{\tilde{x} = \text{const}\}$  contained in the linear fiber through  $(\tilde{x}, 0) \in \tilde{C}$  for every  $\tilde{x}$ .
- (3) Finally we glue  $W$  to  $V$  by means of a holomorphic diffeomorphism  $\Phi: W \rightarrow V$  in order to get a holomorphic surface  $\tilde{S}$  containing  $E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_m \cup \tilde{C}$  as a divisor whose components have the self-intersection numbers described above;  $\Phi$  must send  $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{u}) = (0, 0)$  to  $(x, u) = (0, 0) = q$ , the  $\tilde{x}$ -axis into the  $x$ -axis and the  $\tilde{u}$ -axis



transversely to the  $u$ -axis. We remark that  $\tilde{C}$  has a unique field  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$  of transversal lines because  $\tilde{C} \cdot \tilde{C} > 2 - 2g$ ; by construction the line  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_q$  is different from  $T_q E_m$ .

We blow down  $E_1 \cup \cdots \cup E_m$  to  $p = (0, 0) \in \Delta$  and get a surface  $S$  with an embedded curve  $C$  such that  $C \cdot C > m + 2 - 2g$  and  $p \in C$ .

*We claim that there exists no regular foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  in  $S$  transverse to  $C \setminus \{p\}$  with order of tangency  $0 \leq n \leq m - 1$  at  $p$ .* Otherwise after blowing up  $a$  times as explained before starting at  $p$ , we would get a foliation  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}$  transverse to  $\tilde{C}$  and having  $E_m$  as a leaf. Each leaf  $\tilde{F}_s$  through  $s \in \tilde{C}$  has  $\tilde{L}_s$  as tangent line at  $s \in \tilde{C}$ ; but this property is not verified at the point  $q \in \tilde{C} \cap E_m$ .

We remark that the particular case  $m = 1$  gives examples of embeddings  $C \hookrightarrow S$  such that  $C \cdot C > 3 - 2g$  without transversal foliations to  $C$ ; in particular, there is no neighborhood of  $C$  in  $S$  which is (holomorphically) diffeomorphic to a neighborhood of  $C$  in the total space of its normal bundle.

## 5. Plane curves and line fields

We develop here Example 1 in order to understand the role of tangencies. Let us consider in  $\mathbb{P}^2$  a smooth algebraic curve  $C$  of degree  $d$  and a holomorphic line field  $X$  along  $C$ . We have then a holomorphic map  $\phi_X: C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$  defined as  $\phi_X(p) = X(p) \in \mathbb{P}^2$ ; its image is an algebraic curve  $\tilde{X} \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ . Let us denote by  $l \in \mathbb{N}$  the degree of  $\phi$  as a map from  $C$  onto  $\tilde{X}$ .

For instance, let us suppose that  $X$  is induced by a pencil of lines issued from some point  $b \in \mathbb{P}^2$ . Then  $\tilde{X}$  is a line in  $\mathbb{P}^2$  and  $\phi_X$  has degree  $d$  or  $d - 1$  according to  $b \in C$  or  $b \notin C$  (in this last case,  $X(b)$  is the tangent line to  $C$  at  $b \in C$ ). We have then  $\text{tang}(X, C) = d^2 - d$  or  $\text{tang}(X, C) = d^2 - d - 1$ .

**Proposition 4.**  $\text{tang}(X, C) = l \cdot \deg(\tilde{X}) + d^2 - 2d$ .

*Proof:* We consider  $\mathbb{P}(T\mathbb{P}^2|_C)$ , which is a  $\mathbb{P}^1$ -bundle over  $C$  with the section  $\mathbb{P}(TC)$ . The vector bundle  $T\mathbb{P}^2|_C$  may be described by the following transition maps:

$$x_\alpha = \xi_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)x_\beta + \eta_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)y_\beta, \quad y_\alpha = c_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)y_\beta$$

where  $(x_\beta, y_\beta)$  are coordinates for  $T\mathbb{P}^2|_C$  at the point of  $C$  of coordinate  $z_\beta$ ,  $z_\alpha = g_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)$ ,  $\xi_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta) = g'_{\alpha\beta}(z_\alpha)$  and  $\{c_{\alpha\beta}\}$  defines the normal bundle to  $C$  in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ .

In order to get the transition functions of  $\mathbb{P}(T\mathbb{P}^2|_C)$ , we put  $u_\beta = x_\beta/y_\beta$  and  $t_\beta = y_\beta/x_\beta$ ; then

$$u_\alpha = \frac{\xi_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}{c_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}u_\beta + \frac{\eta_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}{c_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}$$

and

$$t_\alpha = \frac{c_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)t_\beta}{\xi_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta) + \eta_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)t_\beta}.$$

Let us consider the line field  $X$  as a section of  $\mathbb{P}(T\mathbb{P}^2|_C)$ ; we choose also a generic pencil of lines  $P$ . In the  $u$ -coordinates, we have

$$X_\alpha = \frac{\xi_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}{c_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}X_\beta + \frac{\eta_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}{c_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}$$

and

$$P_\alpha = \frac{\xi_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}{c_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}P_\beta + \frac{\eta_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}{c_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}.$$

The intersection number of both sections  $X$  and  $P$  with  $\mathbb{P}(TC)$  will be denoted by  $\text{Poles}(X)$  and  $\text{Poles}(P)$ ; of course  $\text{tang}(X, C) = \text{Poles}(X)$  and  $\text{Poles}(P) = d^2 - d$ .

From the formulae above we see that  $\{X_\alpha - P_\alpha\}$  is a section of the linear bundle given by the cocycle  $\{\frac{\xi_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}{c_{\alpha\beta}(z_\beta)}\}$ , which is  $TC \otimes NC^*$ . Consequently:

$$\text{Zeroes}(X - P) - \text{Poles}(X - P) = -2d^2 + 3d.$$

Therefore  $\text{Poles}(X) = \text{Zeroes}(X - P) - \text{Poles}(P) + 2d^2 + 3d$ . Now since  $\text{Poles}(P) = d^2 - d$  and  $\text{Zeroes}(X - P) = \text{l. deg}(\tilde{X})$ , we get finally

$$\text{tang}(X, C) = \text{l. deg}(\tilde{X}) + d^2 - 2d. \quad \square$$

**Corollary 2.**  $\text{tang}(X, C) \geq (d - 1)^2$ .

This corollary gives another explanation why a smooth, plane algebraic curve  $C$  of degree greater than one has no transversal holomorphic line field; consequently a neighborhood of  $C$  can not be linearized.

We see also that *if we blow up at  $d^2 - 2d$  different points of  $C$ , the resulting curve  $\hat{C}$  has not a linearizable neighborhood as well.* In fact, a transversal holomorphic line field to  $\hat{C}$  corresponds to a holomorphic line field along  $C$  with at most  $d^2 - 2d$  points of ordinary tangency, which is not possible.

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